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International Atomic Energy Agency

Agence Internationale de l'énergie atomique

Международное агентство по атомной энергии

Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica

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In reply please refer to: **C7-RER/6/035/007**

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2016-04-19

Subject: Invitation to a Regional Training Course on Hybrid Imaging: PET/CT in Oncology, Riga and Liepaja, Latvia, 3-8 October 2016.

Dear National Liaison Officer,

I am pleased to invite you to send nominations of suitable candidates to participate in the above-mentioned training course under the framework of TC Project RER/6/035 – Strengthening Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography/Computed Tomography and Positron Emission Tomography Hybrid Imaging Applications for Diagnosis of Chronic Diseases, including Cancer. The purpose of the training course and related information are outlined in the attached Prospectus.

For candidates who are selected by the IAEA, the IAEA will cover the cost of return international travel from the home country to Riga and Liepaja, Latvia and provide a stipend for the duration of the training course in line with IAEA rules and procedures.

Please submit nominations to the IAEA online through the Technical Cooperation Department's InTouch system (<http://intouch.iaea.org>). Only if this is not possible, nominations may be submitted on the Nomination Form for Training Course available on the IAEA website: <http://www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation/How-to-take-part/train-course/index.html>. Completed forms should be endorsed by relevant national authorities and sent to the Programme Management Officer for this project, Ms Mayumi Yamamoto (IAEA Official Fax: +43-1-26007 or E-Mail Official.Mail@iaea.org), through the official channels, i.e. the designated National Liaison Office for IAEA matters, not later than **8 July 2016**.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Krause

Director

Division for Europe

Department of Technical Cooperation

Enclosure: Prospectus

International Atomic Energy Agency

Regional Training Course on Hybrid Imaging: PET/CT in Oncology

PROSPECTUS

Project Number & Title: RER/6/035 Strengthening Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography/Computed Tomography (SPECT/CT) and Positron Emission Tomography (PET/CT) Hybrid Imaging Applications for Diagnosis of Chronic Diseases, including Cancer.

Place (City, Country): Riga and Liepaja, Latvia

Dates: 3-8 October 2016

Deadline for Nominations: 8 July 2016

Organizers: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in cooperation with the Government of Latvia through the Paul Stradins Clinical University Hospital, Riga, Latvia.

Host Country Organizer: Ms Marika Kalnina
Nuclear Medicine Centre
Pauls Stradins Clinical University Hospital
13, Pilsonu Street
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Latvia
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Language: English

Purpose: The training course will provide theoretical and practical training in state of the art of hybrid imaging using PET/CT technology for the management of the cancer patient.

Expected Output(s): Participants trained, level of knowledge upgraded. Training material in the form of DVDs will be provided at the end of the course.

Scope and Nature: PET/CT precise anatomical correlation with CT, improves diagnostic accuracy and reduces scan times. Both techniques have demonstrated added value. The course will include lectures to familiarize with clinical applications, imaging acquisition and processing. The course will be organized in a teaching hall with practically oriented lectures in which there should be active participation from the course participants to discuss the different cases presented.

This regional training course will be organized in conjunction with the 2016 Baltic Congress of Radiology in Liepaja, and selected participants are expected to attend both the course in Riga and the Congress in Liepaja. Bus transportation will be arranged to move from Riga to Liepaja on 5 October 2016.

Background Information:

Chronic diseases like cardiovascular diseases and cancer account for more than 40% of causes of death worldwide (source: WHO World Health Report 2007). Nuclear medicine/molecular imaging has a strong role to play as molecular imaging is emerging as a new approach for the non-invasive detection of molecular and cellular processes that can identify disease before the manifestation of gross anatomic features or physiologic consequences. Application of molecular imaging for early detection of the initiating events associated with disease will be critical for improved understanding of the underlying mechanisms of disease, primary prevention of disease, risk stratification of patients with disease, and promotion of individualized medical treatment based on the unique characteristics of a disease in any given patient. SPECT/CT and PET/CT are new imaging technologies which couple the metabolic information provided by SPECT and PET with the exquisite anatomical resolution of X-ray CT. Both procedures have already found a number of clinical applications in oncologic imaging, particularly PET/CT, and in cardiac disease management. Widespread introduction into clinical practice started approximately 14 years ago and is increasing steadily. It can already be stated that the synthesis of structural and metabolic information improves the accuracy of primary staging and the detection of recurrent disease and has the realistic potential to change patient management in 10 to 20% of cases. PET/CT fusion images can directly guide biopsies or surgical interventions.

Participation:

The training course is open to a maximum of 25 participants from countries that participate in the RER/6/035 project and need assistance in training staff for hybrid imaging methodology, especially on PET/CT for Oncology.

The target countries are: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Participants' Qualification:

The nominees should be qualified Nuclear Medicine Physicians and Radiologists. Candidates should be working currently in nuclear medicine or radiology departments, with strong commitment to provide hybrid imaging services.

Nominations of oncologists who wish to have exposure to nuclear medicine applications with a view of implementing in their practices are also acceptable.

**Nomination
Procedure:**

Nominations should be submitted to the IAEA online through the Technical Cooperation Department's InTouch system (<http://intouch.iaea.org>). Should this not be possible, nominations may be submitted on the standard IAEA Nomination Form for Training Courses (available from the IAEA website: <http://www.iaea.org/>). Completed forms should be endorsed by the relevant national authorities and returned to the Agency through the normal official channels, i.e. the designated National Liaison Office for IAEA matters.

The completed nomination forms should be sent to the Programme Management Officer for this project, Ms Mayumi Yamamoto, through IAEA Official Fax (+43-1-26007) or E-Mail (Official.Mail@iaea.org), not later than **8 July 2016**. Nominations received after this date or which have not been routed through the established official channels cannot be considered.

**Administrative
and Financial
Arrangements:**

Nominating Governments will be informed in due course of the names of the candidates who have been selected and will, at that time, be given full details of the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Selected participants from countries eligible to receive technical assistance will be provided with a round trip economy class air ticket from their home countries to Riga (Latvia), and a stipend sufficient to cover the cost of their accommodation, food and minor incidentals. Shipment of accumulated training course materials to the participants' home countries is not the responsibility of the IAEA.

The organizers of the training course do not accept liability for the payment of any cost or compensation that may arise from damage to or loss of personal property, or from illness, injury, disability or death of a participant while he/she is travelling to and from or attending the course, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in nominating participants, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.